

## Message Text

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SUBJ: SECOND PAN AFRICAN TRACK MEET

DEPT PASS USIA

1. SUMMARY. THE SUCCESS OF THE SECOND PAN AFRICAN TRACK MEET JUST CONCLUDED EXCEEDED THE MOST OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS. THE ORGANIZERS, THE SENEGALESE HOSTS, AND MEET OFFICIALS ARE ALL JUSTLY PROUD OF THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENT IN STAGING A MAJOR SPORTS EVENT IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. THE AMERICAN ATHLETES AND THE AAU HAVE MADE AN EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE DEPT'S SUPPORT TO THE EVENT HAS BEEN AMPLY REWARDED.

2. LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE MEET AND THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO IT WAS WITHOUT EXCEPTION POSITIVE AND AT TIMES GLOWING. ILLUSTRATIVE WAS THE COMMENT IN MONDAY'S LE SOLEIL THAT THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE ATHLETES, BOTH AFRICAN AND AMERICAN, AND THE SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP TRANSCENDING SOCIAL AND RACIAL BARRIERS, GIVES REASON FOR FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF MANKIND. THE PRESS GAVE WARM COVERAGE TO US ATHLETES WITH INTERVIEWS AND REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS SUCH AS SPRINT STAR STEVE WILLIAMS, DOUBLE WINNER JACKIE THOMPSON, WHO GAVE ONE OF HER TWO FIRST PLACE MEDALS WON

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IN THE SPRINTS TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND RECEIVED IN RETURN

FROM HIM TWO INSCRIBED BOOKS OF POEMS, AND YOUNG MARY DECKER WHO CELEBRATED HER 15 TH BIRTHDAY BY WINNING HER EVENT ON THE OPENINGDAY AND WHO ALSO RECEIVED PRESENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT.

3. SENGHOR WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE GAMES IN WHICH THE SENEGALESE HAD MADE A HEAVY INVESTMENT. HE TOLD ME AFTER THE OPENING DAY MEET, OVER WHICH HE PRESIDED, THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE GAMES PERFECTLY EXEMPLIFIED THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WHICH HE IS TRYING TO PROMOTE IN THIS COUNTRY. HE IS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE SERIES CONTINUE. MANY SENEGALIESE OFFICIALS COMMENTED ON THE EXCELLENT COMPORTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ATHLETES AND THE GOOD FEELING SURROUNDING THE TWO-DAY MEET. DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS ON THE AMERICAN TEAM INVOLVING TWO SPRINTERS WHO WERE SENT HOME EARLY DID NOT SEEM TO BLEMISH THE GOOD IMAGE OF THE AMERICANS.

4. AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE IMPRESSED BY THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE SENEGALIESE FOR TEAM HOUSING, FOOD, AND BUT THE SMOOTH RUNNING ORGANIZATION OF THE MEET ITSELF. AAU HEAD OLIN CASSELL SAID THAT THE FACILITIES WERE AS GOOD AS HE HAS SEEN ANYWHERE AND THE ORGANIZERS DESERVE HIGH PRAISE FOR KEEPING TO SUCH A TIGHT SCHEDULE WITHOUT MAJOR PROBLEMS. THERE WAS UNIVERSAL PRAISE FOR THE FACILITIES AT RENOVATED IBA MAR DIOP STADIUM. USIA ADVISOR MAL WHITFIELD FEELS THAT THE TRACK AND FIELD STADIUM, UNIQUE IN AFRICA, WILL ULTIMATELY RAISE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND THE QUALITY OF SPORTS PROGRAMS NOT ONLY IN SENEGAL BUT ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA.

5. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL ULTIMATELY FOUND THAT THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE AAU PLACED A SEVERE STRAIN ON THEIR RESOURCES--A THEME WHICH COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL GANGA RAISED VIGOROUSLY BOTH DURING HIS MARCH VISIT HERE AND AGAIN PUBLICLY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR TO THE GAMES- THIS PROBLEM WAS NOT GIVEN PROMINENCE BY THE LOCAL PRESS. AAU OFFICIALS HAVE REVIEWED THE AGREEMENT WITH THE AFRICANS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING WAYS OF EASING THE COST

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FOR THE SUPREME COUNCIL AND THE AFRICAN AMATEUR ATHLETIC CONFEDERATION IN THE FUTURE. BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT A THIRD MEET WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1975 IN A US CITY.

6. I FEEL THAT OLIN CASSELL AND HIS STAFF--AND ESPECIALLY DR LEROY WALKER, WHOSE CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN OFFICIALS DURING HIS EARLIER VISIT AND MORE

RECENTLY DURING THE GAMES WERE OF IMMEASURABLE HELP,  
AND ALSO THE ATHLETES THEMSELVES, PARTICULARLY INDIVIDUALS  
LIKE HAMMER THROWER AL HALL, WHO SHOWED EXEMPLARY SPORTSMAN-  
SHIP IN HIS CONTACTS WITH HIS AFRICAN COUNTERPARTS--  
HAVE MADE A VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICAN-  
AMERICAN AND SENEGALESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE  
DEPT'S ASSISTANCE TO THIS VENTURE PAID VALUABLE  
DIVIDENDS. CLARK

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